Application No. 09/073,596

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-81 (Cancelled)

82. (Withdrawn) An *in vitro* composition comprising an enriched and expanded population of proliferating dendritic cell precursors.

83. (Cancelled)

84. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 101, wherein the dendritic cell precursors are human.

85. (Withdrawn) The composition of dendritic cell precursors according to claim 84, wherein the dendritic cell precursors are obtained from blood.

86. (Withdrawn) The composition of dendritic cell precursors according to claim 84 wherein the dendritic cell precursors are obtained from bone marrow.

87. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 83 wherein the antigen is produced by tumor cells.

88. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 83 wherein the antigen is an immunoglobulin.

89. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 101, wherein the antigen is a microorganism.

90. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 83 wherein the antigen is a virus.

91. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 89, wherein the antigen is a polypeptide.

92. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 89, wherein the antigen is a peptide.

93. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 83 wherein the antigen is a self-protein or auto-antigen.

94. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 101, wherein the antigen is a mycobacteria.

95. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 94, wherein the mycobacteria is BCG.

99. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 116, wherein the antigen-activated dendritic cells express an amount of the modified antigen to provide between about 1 to 100 micrograms of the modified antigen in said pharmaceutical composition.

101. (Currently Amended) An *in vitro* ~~A~~ composition comprising an enriched and expanded population of antigen-activated dendritic cells presenting modified antigen derived ~~, wherein said antigen-activated dendritic cells are produced~~ from an *in vitro* culture of an enriched and expanded population of proliferating dendritic cell precursors ~~cultures~~ by a method comprising:

providing a tissue source comprising dendritic cell precursors;

optionally treating the tissue source comprising dendritic cell precursors to increase the proportion of dendritic cell precursors;

culturing the tissue source on a substrate *in* a culture medium comprising GM-CSF to obtain cell clusters;

subculturing the cell clusters to produce cell aggregates comprising proliferating dendritic cell precursors; and

subculturing the cell aggregates at least one time to enrich the proportion of dendritic cell precursors;

wherein the dendritic cell precursors are cultured *in vitro* in the presence of an antigen for a time sufficient to allow the antigen to be modified and presented ~~processing and presentation to occur~~.

102. (Withdrawn) The composition of proliferating dendritic cell precursors according to claim 82 further comprising GM-CSF.

103. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 116, wherein the pharmaceutical composition comprises from about $1x10^6$ to $1x10^7$ antigen-activated dendritic cells.

104. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 101, wherein the tissue source is blood.

105. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 101, wherein the tissue source is bone marrow.

106. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 101, wherein GM-CSF is present in the culture medium at a concentration of about 1-1000 U/ml.

107. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 104, wherein the concentration of GM-CSF in the culture medium is about 30-100 U/ml.

108. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 105, wherein the concentration of GM-CSF in the culture medium is about 500-1000 U/ml.

109. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 101, wherein the cell aggregates are subcultured from about one to five times.

110. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 101, wherein the cell aggregates are subcultured about every 3 to 30 days.

111. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 101, wherein the culture medium is selected from the group consisting of RPMI 1640, DMEM, and α-MEM, and wherein the culture medium is supplemented with serum.

112. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 104, wherein the tissue source is treated to remove red blood cells.

113. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 105, wherein the tissue source is treated to remove B cells and granulocytes.

114. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 101, wherein said antigen is presented by the dendritic cells on MHC class I or MHC class II.

115. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 101, wherein said modified antigen is presented by the dendritic cells on MHC class I and MHC class II.

116. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the composition according to claim 101.

117. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 94, wherein the mycobacteria is a tuberculosis bacteria.

118. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 101, wherein the dendritic cell precursors are cultured in the presence of antigen for between about 1-48 hours.

119. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 118, wherein the dendritic cell precursors are cultured in the presence of antigen for about 20 hours.

120. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ An *in vitro* composition comprising an enriched and expanded population of antigen-activated dendritic cells, wherein said antigen-activated dendritic cells are derived from ~~a~~ an *in vitro* culture of a population of enriched and expanded proliferating precursor cells which were contacted *in vitro* with antigen in the presence of GM-CSF for a sufficient time for antigen modification ~~processing~~ and presentation to occur.